

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claim 1 has been cancelled, claims 2, 4, 6, and 10 have been amended, and new claims 11-17 have been added. Accordingly, claims 2-17 are currently pending in this application.

In the Office Action dated August 5, 2005, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly claiming the same invention as that of claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,760,562 to Nishida et al. ("Nishida"). Claim 1 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Nishida. In addition, the Office Action indicates that claims 2-10 have been allowed.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-10. Applicant has amended claims 2, 4, 6, and 10 to improve readability.

Claim 1 has been cancelled to expedite prosecution in this case. Accordingly, the rejections of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 101 and 102(a) are now moot. Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

New claims 11-17 are fully supported by Applicant's originally filed specification. Support for these new claims can be found in the specification, for example, at page 27, line 5 - page 32, line 21. Claims 11-17 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 2. Claims 11-17 are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons cited by the Examiner with regard to claim 2. In addition, each of these dependent claims recites unique combinations that are neither taught nor suggested by the cited art, and therefore each is also separately patentable.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant submits that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art reference cited against this application. Applicant therefore requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.


The Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art with which Applicant does not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicant declines to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

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By: 
Dominic P. Ciminello
Reg. No. 54,038